

Lisa has poured herself into that school and raising money for it, providing scholarships for it, getting sponsors for the children, and to ensure not only their financial support, the tuition, but also to spend time and to be mentors, tutors for the children. I think that says a lot about her heart. Beyond being bright and industrious and energetic and all of the rest of the skills she brings to the office, she brings a great heart as well.

I thank especially Nora Breidenbach, as well, for her 10 years of service. She has been with me ever since I came to Congress. She has headed up the entire constituent service operation. She has a kind of quiet efficiency. I always knew that if there was a problem that needed solving, Nora was the one who could solve it. She is also a great manager of people. She has gone through a lot of trials of her own during the last decade, but she always knew how to draw the best, not only from her own life but from those whom she was supervising. She brought the best from everyone who worked with her and for her.

Also, I say a special thanks to Fay Ott, my office manager; Cortney Brown, my scheduler—every one of these staffers deserves a speech about them—Kate Hull, who has done such a wonderful job as my LA and is now working on the subcommittee staff, who shepherded through legislation that benefits thousands and thousands of nurses; Andrea Allen, who is my state director in Arkansas, a very wonderful human being, very great state director; Susan Carter, who has been with me for years, left and came back, who heads up projects; and Jim Hirni, my legislative director. I said last night, at one of our many farewell parties, that I think not only is he the best legislative director on the Hill, but going through a tough re-election campaign, no one had a better LD, to keep the shop going, but much more than that: to be there for me with encouragement, strength, and help.

To all of my staff I say thanks. To me they are much more than staff. My DC staff consists of Nora Breidenbach, Joycelyn Belcher, Josh Benoit, Cortney Brown, Tim Chapman, Todd Deatherage, Jim Dohoney, Amy Gibson, Colonel Jim Garrison, Lisa Goeas, Michael Hilburg, Jim Hirni, Kyle Hicks, Kate Hull, Rebekah Hutton, Sally Lee-Kerns, Conan Krueger, David Manns, Chris Miller, Robbie Minnich, Tim Moore, Misty Murphey, D.J. O'Brien, Fay Ott, Brydon Ross, Marc Scheessele, Ben Sheldon, Brad Tashenberg, Dan Weaver, Jennie Wingad, Michael Zehr. My state staff consists of Andrea Allen, Carrie Bartholomew, Susan Carter, Jim Case, LaDana Emerson, Leslie Garman, Tammie Hall, Jared Haney, Ruby Henderson, Sarah Jones, Mitchell Lowe, Clint Reed, Julie Reynolds, Spencer Sessions, Jerry Sherrod, Don Travis, Kellie Wall, John Youngblood.

They are much more than just staff. They are truly friends. As my col-

leagues have become good friends to me, so my staff are much more than employees, much more than service to the people of Arkansas. They are very good friends to me.

I ran across this Henry Van Dyke quote on friendship. I would like to end my remarks this morning by quoting him:

With such a comrade, such a friend, I fain would walk through journey's end, through summer sunshine, winter rain, and then? Farewell, we shall meet again.

I thank the Chair for the opportunity to give these farewell remarks from this Senator. I thank my colleagues for the great honor it has been to serve with them these past 6 years.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Before the Senator from Arkansas leaves the floor, let me extend my appreciation for all of his kind deeds toward me. We have worked together on concurrent receipts and a number of other issues. The State of Arkansas, in sending the Hutchinson brothers to Washington, really sent two quality people. I have worked with both of them. I didn't always agree with them politically, but as far as their being temperamentally, socially, so kind and considerate, thoughtful, is concerned, both of them are outstanding gentlemen. I look forward to working with both of them in the future.

BOB SMITH

Mr. REID. Let me say to my friend from New Hampshire, for whom I have the greatest affection, the Senator from New Hampshire and I worked together for one very difficult year when he was cochairman of the MIA-POW Committee. He, along with Senator KERREY, led us in that most important study. I developed a great amount of knowledge of Senator SMITH during that year.

Our friendship, even though it budded there at the time of the MIA-POW Committee, really came to fruition when we were asked by our two party leaders to lead the Ethics Committee. During those years, we worked on some very difficult issues. Senator SMITH I found to be a gentleman, a scholar. He has very good staff. He has the institutional awareness that he is very firm, very strict, but yet very fair. That is what the Ethics Committee needs.

As I indicated, I developed a friendship with BOB SMITH. I am terribly disappointed that he is not going to be here next year. I wish I could express in a better way, a more meaningful way, how deep my feelings are toward BOB SMITH and how much I will miss him. I hope the stars are aligned appropriately sometime in the future that he can again return to public service.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 3180

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed

to the consideration of a bill at the desk to amend the Social Security Act to extend the availability of allotments for fiscal years 1998 through 2001 under the State Children's Health Insurance Program; that this bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate; and that any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD.

This legislation is so important. What it does is it amends the Social Security Act to extend the availability of allotments for fiscal years 1998 through 2001 under the State Children's Health Insurance Program, so-called SCHIP.

This is a program that virtually every Governor of the 50 States badly needs. This is one of the reasons the States, with rare exception, are spending in the red.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, on behalf of the leadership at this time, I have to object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

APPRECIATION OF SENATOR REID

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I want to say to my friend from Nevada before he leaves the floor, what an absolute privilege and honor it has been for me to serve with him in the U.S. Senate. He is an example of bipartisanship and friendship, which I will always treasure. We have had private conversations about many issues here and while serving on the Ethics Committee, which is kind of like purgatory.

I will never forget you, Senator REID, and I very much am going to miss you. I hope I will get a chance to see you from time to time as the years go by.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, when I came to the Senate in 1991, we were faced with Saddam Hussein and Iraq. Actually, my first speech on the floor was about Iraq and the war and the fact that we had to make a very difficult vote.

As I leave the Senate, here we are still facing—12 years later—Saddam Hussein and an imminent war with Iraq. So there is some irony there, I guess.

Before I make some closing remarks about my tenure here and leaving the Senate, I want to make a few remarks about something that I think has been somewhat ignored over the past several years in this body and, indeed, in the country, and that is the future of space and how space will help us to protect our national security and also not only our national security but just the pure science of space and the fascination